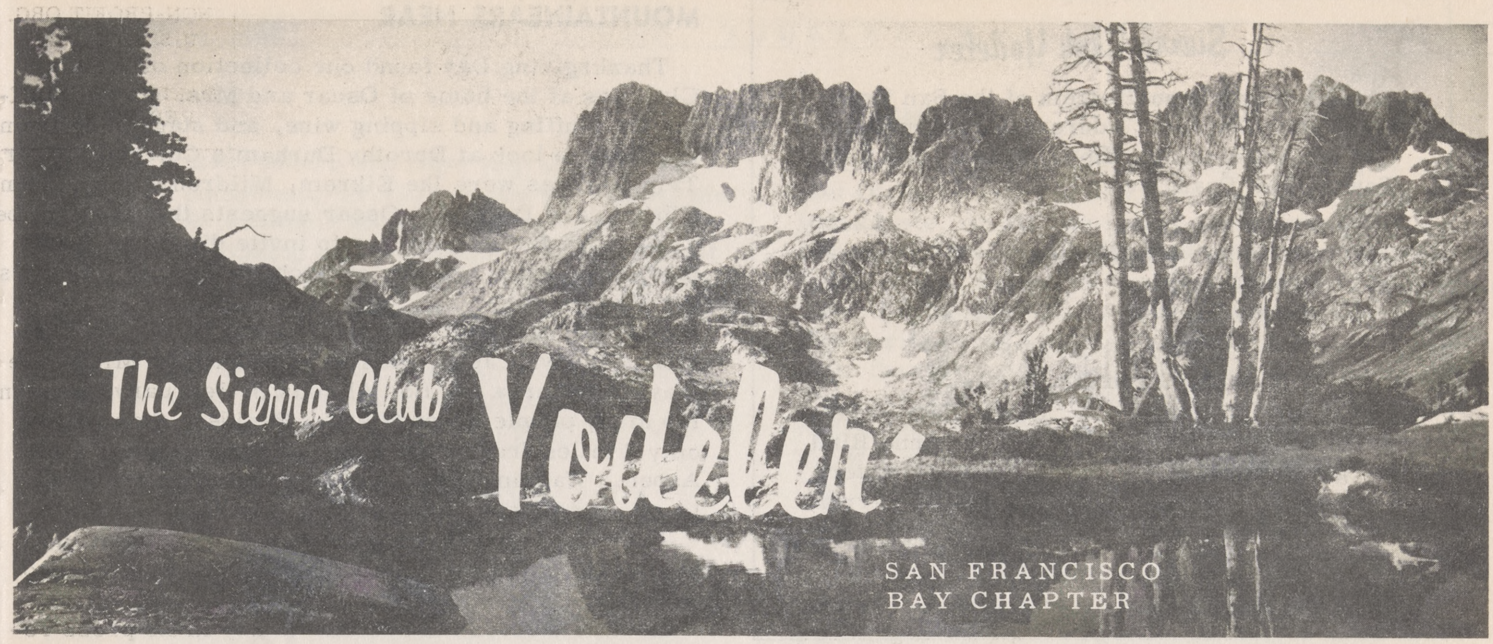

The Sierra Club Yodeler

SAN FRANCISCO
BAY CHAPTER

Volume XX December 1, 1958 Number 18

THE COMING FIGHT FOR WILDERNESS

Our report on the Wilderness Bill hearing in the last Yodeler touched the lighter side. Now comes serious business. Dave Brower gave the Conservation Committee a broad review of where we stand and the fight we face to get the bill passed in the next Congress.

We heard that the conservationists were outnumbered at the Salt Lake City hearing and that the press was unfavorable there. At Bend, Oregon, both sides were about equally represented. Witnesses came all the way from Alaska to oppose the bill.

The opposition is paying us the compliment of pulling out its big guns; their weapons, of course, is publicity for their side, often with the well-known device of the half truth which will confuse the reader. It is up to us, Sierra Club members, to counter with what we know about the bill and its objectives.

For example: A common opposing argument is that the bill will add millions of acres to the Wilderness Areas already so designated. Those millions of acres are already within the National Park system; they are maintained as wilderness by the National Park Service. They also will be given protection under the bill to ensure that they remain wilderness just as the National Forest Wilderness Areas will be protected outside the Parks. But bringing them all under this blanket of security will neither increase our actual wilderness nor take anything away from lumbermen or grazers; they cannot have them for commercial purposes in any case. But it gives opponents a talking point and many a congressman will be confused by this type of argument.

Many individual letters, simple, short, personal reasons for support will be needed to help this bill through the Congress. Dave Brower reported that the number of letters written in favor of the bill is disappointing. Probably it takes a real fight to dramatize a situation. That is about to happen very soon.

(Continued on Page 2)

SCHEDULE HELP SCHEDULED

The new Schedule will be ready for sorting and tying on Wednesday night, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Club Office.

We'll need about ten or twelve people to help us get them out. Coffee and a supply of Schedules to helpers.

-- Hasse Bunnelle

RTS SLALOM WINNERS

The River Touring Section of the Sierra Club held its annual Slalom Water Race on the Mokelumne River on Sunday, November 9. The event was opened to advanced and novice kayakers, both men and women, and either rigid or folding kayaks could be used. Seven gates were set up over short rapids, riffles and cross currents, making the course a difficult but short one. Elsa Bailey of Oakland was in charge of this event and together with Red Cockerline of San Leandro planned and set up the course.

The winner of the race for the advanced men boaters was Roger Paris, currently of Mill Valley, the French National Amateur Champion, who made the run in 119 seconds, with no penalties, using his Klepper Slalom folding boat. Bryce Whitmore, the former chairman of the River Touring Section and of El Sobrante, placed second with a time of 119-1/2 seconds, plus a 10-second penalty for touching a gate, using his own design of rigid fiberglass kayak. Third place went to Glenn Gaumer of Oakland, who is the new RTS Chairman, with a time of 132 seconds, plus two 10-second penalties. He also used a fiberglass rigid kayak of his own design.

Maryann Danielson of Berkeley placed first of the women boaters. Her time was 186 seconds, plus three 10-second penalties, using her rigid fiberglass boat. Elsa Bailey placed second with a time of

(Continued on back page)

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NEXT DEADLINE: January 5th

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Conservation — from page 1

Meanwhile there are several things you can do. When you see an article in a newspaper favorable to the bill, pat the editor's back with a short note. (You may be sure the opposing interests will be kicking him.) If you see printed mis-statements, write correcting them; the facts to use are in your Sierra Club publications. Talk to your friends: if they don't go on wilderness trips, their children will be going someday -- if there is any wilderness left.

SOME OTHER NEWS ITEMS

At San Diego, the Directors endorsed the policy of protection of cave areas on which Ray DeSassure has worked so long and carefully. They also concurred with the Mother Lode Chapter on the desirability of creating a Mokelumne Wild Area. The M.L. Chapter leaders have been working enthusiastically toward this. The Club has also granted $500 to the National Park study of the Great Basin Range, proposed for a National Park, to continue ecological studies in the area, for the Park Service has no more money for that purpose.

The U.S. Bureau of Roads has come out with an opinion that the Mammoth Road (through the Sierra to Huntington Lake) is both feasible "and important." It estimates 3000 cars a day might use the road by 1980, but mentions that a study of route and cost is yet to be made.

At Bodega Head, a citizens committee is being formed to protest the proposed PG&E plant which would spoil the area for recreation, but some landowners think of the taxes the county could get from the plant and are hesitating to oppose it.

Near home, the acquisition of land specially named in the bill passed by the last Legislature to enlarge Tamalpais State Park is still far away. The Department of Beaches and Parks has said they want to change the law to allow them to buy other parts of the adjacent lands.

And soon the Army's Flying Jeep is to be available to civilians, we read. So we can buzz up the hillside and whirr over the boundary fences. Look out, Sierra, here we come! -- CMC

MOUNTAINEERS HEAR

Thanksgiving Day found one collection of Sierra Clubbers at the home of Oscar and Mrs. Ortiz. Stuffing the stuffing and sipping wine, and staggering from the table to look at Dorothy Durham's Colorado River Trip pictures were Ike Eikrem, Mildren Hilkey, Tom Gibson, and Dorothy. Oscar suggests that it might be a nice idea for SC families to invite displaced Club members to their homes on such occasions. Where's the sign-up sheet?

Former writer of "Mountainears, Hear", Al Furnish, plus wife Jean, plus little Furnisher Mike, are leaving the area for Los Alamos in February. Reason: too many people around here. Besides, they will be only 9 miles from a ski area, and not very far from Aspen. Warning: this happy end is not guaranteed to all journalists.

As of Nov. 5, Phyrne Lorenz was peering at the east coast of Africa from The Rondo, a Dutch cargo ship bound for somewhere.

Mammoth Mountain has this to say in its press release: "SNOW CONDITIONS ARE POOR AT MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN AT THIS TIME!" If you enjoy the out-of-doors, don't mind rocks in the snow, come ahead." How's that for advertising your establishment?

Georgella Perry has recovered beautifully from a recent operation. She is meaner than ever before.

The Toiyabe Chapter has gone hi-falutin on us, with a picture of Wheeler Peak and its glacier appearing on the masthead of the November issue.

Merry Christmas, Scrooge! -- DB

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

At 4:30 p.m. tune to 94.1 m.c., channel 231 (KPFA) and hear Dave Brower interview Richard St. Barbe Baker, England's "Man of the Trees." Mr. Baker is author of many books on conservation and is one of the world's leading experts on forestry. He has some fascinating comments on his Sahara expedition and the startling speed with which that desert is growing.

Don't miss these conservation giants!

SCANDIHOOVIAN(?)

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of SF meet every Wednesday from 8 to 11, at their new location, the Trinity Methodist Church, 16th and Market Streets. (Use the 16 Street entrance). Scandinavian and other international folk dancing is enjoyed. Their big Santa Lucia party is set for December 17.

HIKE — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in parking lot at entrance to Marinwood from Highway US101. This is about 3 miles north of San Rafael, and about 1.5 miles south of Hamilton Field.

Hike with Mary and Bill Hamblin about eight miles on dirt roads and fire trails. Bring water and a good supply of energy. -- Bill Hamblin

BIG DEAL

There are many skiers who have upgraded themselves, in equipment, or who become ex-skiers, who would like to sell their old equipment. There are also many beginning skiers who don't want to invest in all new gear right off, as well as continuing skiers who would be satisfied with serviceable used equipment.

While occasionally some equipment may change hands through Yodeler ads or otherwise, up to now there has been no satisfactory way of getting these two groups together.

The Alpineer's First Annual Ski Swap was a tremendous step forward in remedying this crying need. The sellers obtained a numbered registration tag, marked the price, attached the tag with a lead-sealed cable, and placed the gear on the appropriate display spot. Buyers could inspect all merchandise, and then take the selected merchandise to the cashier, who places the money in an envelope numbered to correspond with the price tag, for pick-up by the owner.

It was very well organized. There was a large selection of skis, poles, pants, parkas, boots, etc. -- all well below retail and some terrific bargains. Judging by the crowds it was a smashing success.

The Alpineers will surely continue this Ski Swap. The demand is such as to justify smiliar swaps organized by other clubs (including ours), oftener than once a year, with at least some for the East Bay. Here's hoping somebody takes some action.

-- HF

DR. NEWELL HONORED WITH AWARD

Dr. Robert R. Newell, a Sierra Club member, received the Gold Medal of the Radiological Society of North America (the only one awarded, we understand). The medal was presented "in recognition of achievement in the science of radiology" by Dr. Leo Rigler, President of the Society.

Dr. Newell is Medical Consultant to the Scientific Department of the U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory in San Francisco.

He is a member of two honor fraternities, Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha, a member of a large number of professional societies as well as author of many articles in his field published in scientific journals.

Dr. Newell already had received the gold medal of the American College of Radiology, awarded in February 1957. At that time it was said that Dr. Newell "can be counted on to continue being 'radioactive' for many years to come, leaving alpha, beta and gamma tracks on minds not only in this country but in the community of nations".

CTL NEWS

Small clarification of last issue's column -- Contact Diane or Jerry if you have any ideas, wish to participate, or are just generally interested in a skit to be presented at the Legion Hall in Truckee, Saturday night, February 7. Starting order for the race the following day will be determined that evening. The participants will receive lift tickets and lunch (hot, that is) on the day of the race at Squaw Valley. The race will be run under FIS rules. Speaking of races, the Tri-Club race (Sierra Club, ASUC, Heidelmann) is tentatively set for December 28; set that day aside, you racers.

Skiing and the mass-media: San Francisco's Educational Station, KQED, Channel 9, beginning Thursday evening, January 8, 1959, will present a half-hour program (9:30 - 10:00) all about skiing clubs, exercises, styles, snow reports, club events, etc. Not to be outdone, KROW will begin Dec. 4, at 6:30, to present ski reports and snow conditions: Kit Carson White will be the commentator.

Another race: The North-South Race with Thor Lind as captain of the North team will be held March 14-15. The Examiner is sponsoring a dry ski school with Eric Johnson as its director December 9, 10, and 11 from 8-10 at the Kezar Pavilion. Bring your tennis shoes and prepare for some exercising!! Also featured will be Don Sherwood, a style show, and a movie. Safety in skiing will be stressed throughout.

Snow Report: Signal, dry; Shasta, no snow; Squaw Valley, rocky; Mammoth, white frosting on their rocks; Alta, they say, "24 inches of powder on 8 inch base."

Movies: Warren Miller's "Are your Skis on Straight?" (Hilarious) In San Francisco, Nourse Aud. February 9; Berkeley, February 10; Palo Alto, January 6 and 7. John Jay's "White Flight" (Haven't seen it yet). Hope you have by this time.

-- Roberta Codis

PS. The Downski Roster should be out in December or January. Credit for the Sierra Club list goes to Don Huber and Thelma Arlom who spent many hours over it.

* ** ** ** ** ** ** *

We should be thankful that we in Central California live in the best part of the best state of the best country in the world.

-- from a letter to the editor of a local newspaper, not the Yodeler.

Wish we had a broad enough experience to be able to make such a patriotic statement. -- HF

* * *

MOUNTAIN MEADOW with house attached. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, home in Los Altos, near high school, backyard features Sierra pines, firs and cedars. $21,500 (gulp), WHitecliff 8-3405.

FOR SALE: Klepper foldboat, double, with sailing rig and spray cover. New, unused. $400 plus shipping charge. (Regular price is $447.50 plus shipping.) Carol Rudnick, 2653 Alpine Road, Menlo Park. DAvenport 6-6200 ext. 3225, daytime.

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JINGLE BELLS! AND DINNER, TOO

Santa Claus is on his pre-Christmas rounds and will be coming to Berkeley's Willard Junior High School, Ward and Telegraph, on December 10 to get the East Bay Dinner group into the proper festive mood. Come join the fun! Wear an ornament and bring one for the Christmas tree. Also bring a gift costing under 50¢ with your name inside. If it is specifically for a man or woman, mark it so that Santa will know.

There will be caroling lead by Jean Baxter, starting about 6 p.m. But come to help trim the tree and arrange the gifts any time after 5:30. Dinner will be at 6:30 with the party following. Kiddie plates will be available for $1.00, so bring the children. For dinner reservations or additional information, call Betty Christeler (LAndscape 6-3954) before 10 p.m. on December 8. Be sure to let her know how many of your reservations are for children.

-- Marjorie Lewis

River Touring — from page 1

160 seconds in her foldboat, plus two 10-second penalties and one 50-second penalty. Jacqueline Meyer of Mill Valley came in third in 208 seconds, plus seven 10-second penalties. Jackie used her foldboat.

The novices to win first and second place were Ted Fostiak and Chuck Reynolds of Point Richmond in 225 and 320 seconds, respectively. These two men chose to run the same course as the advanced boaters and came through in good time for beginners. Rigid kayaks of canvas were used by them.

The winners will receive plaques for their victories at the Christmas Party.

* *** ** *** ** *** *

Tickets for the Christmas Party December 9th are $1.50 per person and can be purchased from Barbara Tilden or Lou Elliott in the East Bay, Slavka Cibilich in Marin and Carl Trost in San Francisco. The party will be at the old Boat House on Lake Merritt.

Glenn Gaumer announced that the following people were going to help him this year with RTS activities:

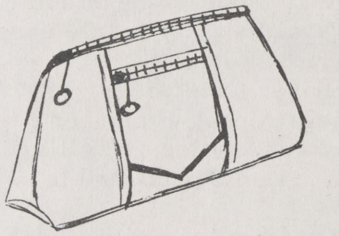
Bob Hawley	Secretary-Treasurer
Bryce Whitmore	Exploration
Frank Cockerline	Safety & Training
Barbara Tilden	Social
Elsa Bailey	Slalom
Elinore Ridge	Publicity & Trips

-- E. M. Ridge

WANT TO FLY TO ALTA? Room for one passenger, with paper bag. Leaving Dec. 13, returning Dec. 28. Julius Siddon, 1010 Bush St., San Francisco. ORdway 3-5070, night. YUkon 2-1869, day.

WANTED: Boy's ski boots, ski jacket, ski pants, skis and poles. LAndscape 4-2246.

FOR SALE:
NORWEGIAN LAMINATED HICKORY SKIS with kandahar binding, steel poles. Good condition $45.00. GRaystone 4-6190.



HANDMADE BELT PURSES. Blue denim, red or royal blue canvas, 4 sizes. Largest will hold Peterson Field Guide or other small reference book... or your lunch.

If you're planning your Christmas list now, they make very nice Christmas presents.

Write or telephone: Bernice Bonds, 1671 Arch St., Apartment 6, Berkeley, THornwall 1-1696. Also available at Audubon Society Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

HOLIDAY PEAK CLIMB - MEXICO: December 21, 1958 - January 3, or 10, 1959. Cost: from $250.00. Will make as many attempts on major peaks as possible in 2 or 3 week period. More extensive schedule if enough interest to stay longer. Some non-climbers will be in party. Reservations and details:

Joe Wampler, Box 45, Berkeley 1, Calif.